

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A seat base for flexibly supporting a furniture seat, said seat base comprising:

5 a frame including opposing first and second frame members that are spaced apart;

a first elongate rail attached to the first frame member and a second elongate rail attached to the second frame member;

10 a plurality of integrated hooks formed on and spaced apart along each elongate rail; and

a plurality of springs each having a first end attached to one of the integrated hooks on the first elongate rail and a second end attached to one of the integrated hooks on the second elongate rail, such that the springs stretch between the opposing first and second members to define a resilient structure for supporting the furniture seat, and wherein each elongate rail and the hooks formed thereon comprise a monolithic structure formed from a single piece of material.

2. The seat base according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of integrated hooks are spaced at intervals along each elongate rail such that the attached springs are spaced at equidistant intervals.

3. The seat base according to claim 1, further comprising a noise suppressing material applied to spring-engaging surfaces of each of the integrated hooks.

25 4. The seat base according to claim 3, wherein the noise-suppressing material comprises a tape.

5. The seat base according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of integrated hooks and the elongate rail are integrally formed from a single strip of metal, the hooks being initially formed as tabs that are subsequently bent into hook shapes.

6. The seat base according to claim 1, wherein each hook defines a spring-receiving width sized with respect to the springs so as to provide a press fit therebetween.

7. A rail clip for attaching a plurality of wire springs to a seat base, said rail clip comprising:

an elongate rail; and

a plurality of integrated hooks formed on and spaced along the elongate rail, each hook configured to receive an end of one of the wire springs, said hooks and rail comprising a monolithic structure formed integrally from a single piece of material.

8. The rail clip according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of integrated hooks are spaced at equidistant intervals along the elongate rail thereby spacing the plurality of wire springs at equidistant intervals.

9. The rail clip as according to claim 7, further comprising a noise suppressing material applied to spring-engaging surfaces of each of the integrated hooks.

10. The rail clip according to claim 9, wherein the noise-suppressing material comprises a tape.

11. The rail clip according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of integrated hooks and the elongate rail are integrally formed from a single strip of metal, the hooks being initially formed as tabs that are subsequently bent into hook shapes.

12. The rail clip according to claim 7, wherein the elongate rail includes a pair of walls forming an angle-section and the plurality of integrated hooks are spaced along one of the walls.

13. The rail clip according to claim 7, wherein the elongate rail includes a plurality of holes for fasteners to pass through to attach the rail clip to the seat base.

14. A method of forming a rail clip for anchoring a plurality of wire springs in a seat base, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate rail formed of a metal sheet;

forming a plurality of tabs extending from one longitudinal edge of the rail, the tabs comprising integral extensions of the metal sheet spaced apart along the edge of the rail; and

bending the tabs to form hooks spaced along the elongate rail and configuring each hook to receive and firmly hold an end of a wire spring.

15. The method of forming the rail clip according to claim 14, wherein the elongate rail has an angle cross-sectional shape.

16. The method of forming the rail clip according to claim 14, further comprising forming the rail to have an angle cross-sectional shape by bending the rail along a long axis.

17. The method of forming the rail clip according to claim 14, further comprising forming holes in the rail for fasteners to pass through.

18. The method of forming the rail clip according to claim 14, further comprising applying noise-suppressing material to spring-engaging surfaces of each of the hooks.

19. The method of forming the rail clip according to claim 19, wherein said applying step comprises applying a tape as the noise-suppressing material.